

**From:** Kennedy, Matthew  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 1/25/02 10:40am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a software engineer, I am young enough to remember my experience with computers in the course of my k-12 education. The proposed Microsoft settlement, particularly the portions regarding donations of software and computers to schools, benefits Microsoft and helps to extend their monopoly powers in disgusting ways that I can't even believe are being considered.

Young people in schools become familiar with computers by using them as tools. It is important for the technology industry that the set of tools the rising generation of professionals is familiar with is a diverse one. If young people are exposed to many competing technologies, they will carry that knowledge into professional careers and foster competition among vendors. It does not behoove the health of the industry if young people are only exposed to Microsoft operating systems and software or Microsoft operating systems running on Macintosh hardware.

Furthermore, this is hardly a punishment for Microsoft. People who become familiar with Microsoft tools in school, will be more likely to buy Microsoft software later, hence generating revenue for Microsoft in the long run. It costs almost nothing in terms of real money for Microsoft to donate software, how is that punishment? The proposed settlement doesn't even require Microsoft to bear the entire burden of hardware costs.

There should be no mistake that Microsoft has acted unethically in its business practices and should actually be punished for that behavior. The schoolyard bully should be given detention, not allowed greater reign of the schoolyard.

-Matthew Kennedy